

# HMPPS and SignHealth

## Deaf Link Worker Project

### Are you working with a Deaf person on probation or about to be released from prison?

Deaf people can be seriously disadvantaged throughout the Criminal Justice System and can often struggle with extra challenges of isolation and exclusion.

The HMPPS is striving to ensure equality of access to probation/prison services and has put in place a number of measures to do this, including this pilot project.

### Deaf Link Workers

Thanks to an HMPPS Innovations grant awarded to the Deaf health charity SignHealth, Deaf people in probation services or up to 6 months prior to release from prison within the North West and Greater Manchester regions can be offered a Deaf Link Worker.

The Deaf Link Worker will work closely with Probation/Prison Staff to:

- Check for understanding between the staff and the Deaf person
- Support the Deaf person to engage with the staff
- Provide consultation to the staff to improve their skills and knowledge related to working with Deaf people
- Act as a resource to advise on Deaf Culture, community and challenges.

This is an excellent opportunity to facilitate genuine access to prison and probation services. The Deaf Link Worker does not replace the need for an interpreter, who should be booked through Clarion – search Equip for ‘Clarion’ for more information.

This project is for people who use British Sign Language (BSL) or similar and may identify themselves as culturally Deaf.

For more information or a referral form contact:  
[samantha.pearsall@signhealth.cjsm.net](mailto:samantha.pearsall@signhealth.cjsm.net)

### Working with Deaf People on Probation Toolkit

Staff can also access a [toolkit](#) produced by the North West Probation Service.